GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services – Registration & Stamps Department – Allegation of tearing and tampering of records against the staff working in Registrar Office (Original Branch), Rajahmundry – disciplinary proceedings initiated against Sri K.S.Rama Rao, Office Sub-Ordinate, Registrar Office (Original Branch), Rajahmundry among certain others - Regular enquiry conducted – Report submitted – charge proved - Enquiry report communicated – Representation submitted – examined – Imposing the penalty of stoppage of three annual grade increments with cumulative effect – Orders – Issued.

REVENUE (VIGILANCE-II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.961 **Dated:14-09-2017**

Read the following:

1. DR, R&S, Rajahmundry Lr.No.G1/368/2014, dt:30-5-2014.
2. DIG, R&S, Kakinada Lr.No.X/388/2014, dt:9-12-2014 & dt:30-9-2015.
3. DIG, R&S, Kakinada Charge Memo.No.X/388/2014-1, dt:18-11-2014.
4. WSD of Sri K.S.Rama Rao, Office Sub-Ordinate, dt:25-11-2014.
5. G.O.Rt.No.1211, Rev (Vig.II) Deptt., dt:27-11-2015.
6. G.O.Rt.No.1212, Rev (Vig.II) Deptt., dt:27-11-2015.
7. G.O.Rt.No.1328, Rev (Vig.II) Deptt., dt:31-12-2015.
8. DIG, R&S, Kakinada Lr.No.X/388/2014-2, dt:1-10-2016.
9. Govt., Memo.No.36555/Vig.II(1)/2014-5, dt:10-1-2017.
10. Representation of the CO Sri K.S.Rama Rao, Office Sub-Ordinate, dt:16-2-2017.
11. Govt., Lr.No.36555/Vig.II(1)/2014-6, dt:13-6-2017.
12. APPSC Lr.No.511/DC&C/1/2017, dt:12-7-2017.

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ORDER:

Whereas, in the reference 2nd read above, the Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Kakinada has brought to the notice of the Government that certain officials of Registration & Stamps department who worked previously in the Registrar Office (Original Branch), Rajahmundry from 2011 onwards were involved in tearing and tampering of records in Registrar Office (Original Branch), Rajahmundry.

2. And whereas, in the reference 3rd read above, the Disciplinary Authority i.e., the Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Kakinada has initiated disciplinary proceedings against Sri K.S.Rama Rao, Office Sub-Ordinate, Registrar Office (Original Branch), Rajahmundry duly framing the following charge among certain others.

Charge: That Sri K.S.Rama Rao, Office Sub-Ordinate, Registrar Office (Original Branch), Rajahmundry among 8 others have committed grave misconduct in as much as they have failed to safeguard and preserve the records of the office.

That on a complaint received from one Sri Addepalli Chenna Kesava, S/o late Nageswara Rao, R/o Rajahmundry alleging that the Registrar Office, Rajahmundry issued copies of three fake documents, verification of the records was made by the Preliminary enquiry officer and the following fraudulent act was found, for which the above named official (under suspension) who are handling the records are jointly and collectively responsible.

Torn out and replacement with fake pages in Book-I:
Volume No.1247 – Pages 65 to 73 (3 sheets)
Page No.47 to 64.

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Apart from the above, the relevant pages in index I & II were also torn out in order to disappearance of evidence. Verification of the D-Account Registrar discloses the following details with regard to movement of the relevant Volumes of Book-I:

S.No	Date of taking the relevant volume for preparing C.C.	S.No. & C.No.	Doc. No. meant for C.C.	Volume No
1	22.3.2011	1532/11 & 1463/11	5093/74	1247
2	5.6.2013	3575/13 & 3508/13	5093/74	1247
3	5.6.2013	3576/13 & 3509/13	6088/79	1427
4	5.6.2013	3577/13 & 3510/13	6149/79	1433
5	7.6.2013	3636/13 & 3569/13	6088/79	1427
6	7.6.2013	3637/13 & 3568/13	5093/74	1247
7	10.6.2013	3662/13 & 3593/13	6149/79	1433
8	28.2.2014	232/14 & 1427/14	6149/79	1433
9	28.2.2014	233/14 & 1428/14	6088/79	1247

As per the Standing orders in vogue on the subject, as enunciated in new S.O.Nos.1112 and 1113 (i), the above named staff member (u/s) is individually and collectively responsible for the tampering and, loss or destruction of records.

Thus, he acted in a manner which is unbecoming of Government Servant and thereby contravened the provisions of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

3. The Charged Officer submitted Written Statement of Defence in the reference 4th read above. Due to involvement of certain Retired officials along with in service officials, the Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Kakinada has sent proposals for conducting common enquiry as all of them were involved in common irregularity in the reference 2nd read above.

4. And whereas, in the reference 5th read above, Government have ordered for common enquiry against all the 25 Registration officials who were commonly involved in the allegation of tearing and tampering of records in the Registrar Office (Original Branch), Rajahmundry.

5. In the refrences 6th & 7th read above, Government have appointed the Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Kakinada as Inquiring Authority and the District Registrar, Registration & Stamps, Machilipatnam as Presenting Officer.

6. The Inquiring Authority in the reference 8th read above has furnished the Inquiry report stating among others that the charge framed against Sri K.S.Rama Rao, Office Subordinate, Registrar Office(Original Branch), Rajahmundry was held proved.

7. Government have examined the matter and communicated the Inquiring Authority report to the Charged Officer vide reference 9th read above for offering his representation if any on the findings of Inquiring Authority.

8. And whereas, in the reference 10th read above, the Charged Officer submitted representation stating among others that in discharging his duties, as per the orders of his superior officers, he will enter into the record room to bring out the required register and hand over to the concerned dealing assistant and after the work is completed, he will keep register in the appropriate place and the entire process completes in a few minutes and it is impossible to tear out the original documents and replace the same with forged document within a span of 10 minutes. He has

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further stated that he has no knowledge to identify the document and thus, he cannot resort to commit said offence and it is beyond imagination to presume that Office subordinate simply because he has access to the record room resort to commit missconduct. He has further stated that it is true that the office subordinate takes thumb impression of the executants and claimant in the presence of concerned Joint Sub-Registrar and the T.I. register is always in the lock and custody of Joint Sub-Registrar-I and in the absence of Joint Sub-Register —I, the Joint Sub-Registrar-II or in charge Joint Sub Registrar will have full control over the care of T.I.register. He has therefore, stated that an office subordinate can not resort to tamper the evidence in T.I. register. He has also stated that the learned enquiry officer and Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Kakinada only held the charge against him as proved only by application of standing orders S.O.1112 and 1113(i). The standing orders are equally applicable to all the remaining charged officers against whom the enquiry officer held charges as not proved and also to the all personnel who worked in the Registrar Office (Original Branch), Rajahmundry from 1974 onwards. He has also stated that the conduct of inquiry is against the principles of natural justice and therefore, requested the Government to consider his representation to drop further proceedings agaist him.

9. Government after careful examination of the matter keeping in view the findings of the Inquiring Authority observed that the duties of an Office Subordinate in a registration office are to obtain the impressions of the parties on the documents presented for registration and to bring the records from the record room when required for conducting search and preparing certified copies of the documents applied for by the parties likewise, the records will be returned to the record keeper after done with. Therefore, the Charged Officer is individually and collectively responsible for the tampering, loss or destruction of records as per S.O.1112 and 1113(i).

10. After careful consideration of the matter it has been provisionally decided to impose a penalty of stoppage of three annual grade increments with cumulative effect against Sri K.S.Rama Rao, Office Sub-Ordinate, Registrar Office (Original Branch), Rajahmundry and sought for concurrence of Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission in the reference 11th read above.

11. And whereas in the reference 12th read above, the Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission have agreed with the proposal of the Government (copy enclosed to the Charged Officer).

12. Accordingly, Government, hereby order to impose a penalty of stoppage of three annual grade increments with cumulative effect against Sri K.S.Rama Rao, Office Sub-Ordinate, Registrar Office, Original Branch, Rajahmundry.

13. The Director & Inspector General, Registraion & Stampa, Andhra Pradesh, and Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Kakinada shall take necessary action in the matter accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

Dr.D.SAMBASIVA RAO
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (CT, EXCISE & R&S)

To
The Director & Inspector General, Registration & Stamps,
Andhra Pradesh, Eedupugallu, Vijayawada, Krishna District.
The Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Kakinada.
The Individual (w.e) (through the Deputy Inspector General,
Registration & Stamps, Kakinada with a request to serve the order on

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the individual and furnish the served copy along with dated acknowledgement to Government for record).

Copy to:

The Secretary to the Vigilance Commissioner,
Andhra Pradesh Vigilance Commission, Velagapudi, Andhra Pradesh,Secretariat,Guntur District.
The Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission, Hyderabad.
SF / SC.

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER